

Inglis (SC)	Mica	Saxton
Issa	Miller (FL)	Schmidt
Johnson (IL)	Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner
Johnson, Sam	Miller, Gary	Sessions
Jones (NC)	Moran (KS)	Shadegg
Jordan	Murphy, Tim	Shays
Keller	Musgrave	Shimkus
King (IA)	Myrick	Shuster
King (NY)	Neugebauer	Simpson
Kingston	Nunes	Smith (NE)
Kirk	Paul	Smith (NJ)
Kline (MN)	Pearce	Smith (TX)
Knollenberg	Pence	Souder
Kuhl (NY)	Peterson (PA)	Stearns
LaHood	Petri	Tancredo
Lamborn	Pitts	Terry
Latham	Platts	Thornberry
LaTourette	Poe	Tiahrt
Lewis (CA)	Porter	Tiberi
Lewis (KY)	Price (GA)	Turner
Linder	Putnam	Upton
LoBiondo	Radanovich	Walberg
Lucas	Ramstad	Walden (OR)
Lungren, Daniel	Regula	Walsh (NY)
E.	Rehberg	Wamp
Mack	Reichert	Weldon (FL)
Manzullo	Renzi	Weller
Marchant	Reynolds	Westmoreland
McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (AL)	Whitfield
McCauley (TX)	Rogers (KY)	Wicker
McCotter	Rogers (MI)	Wilson (NM)
McCrery	Rohrabacher	Wilson (SC)
McHenry	Ros-Lehtinen	Wolf
McHugh	Roskam	Young (AK)
McKeon	Royce	Young (FL)
McMorris	Ryan (WI)	
Rodgers	Sali	

NOT VOTING—17

Barrett (SC)	Delahunt	Perlmutter
Boswell	Dingell	Pickering
Carson	Jindal	Pryce (OH)
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Sullivan
Cubin	Lee	Visclosky
Davis, Jo Ann	Melancon	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1218

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3246.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 704, I call up the bill (H.R. 3246) to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3246

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
- (1) certain regions of the Nation, including Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta Region, the Northern Great Plains Region, the Southeast Crescent Region, the Southwest Border Region, the Northern Border Region, and rural Alaska, have suffered from chronic distress far above the national average;
 - (2) an economically distressed region can suffer unemployment and poverty at a rate that is 150 percent of the national average; and
 - (3) regional commissions are unique Federal-State partnerships that can provide targeted resources to alleviate pervasive economic distress.
- (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—
- (1) to provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation; and
 - (2) to ensure that the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation have the necessary tools to develop the basic building blocks for economic development, such as transportation and basic public infrastructure, job skills training, and business development.

SEC. 3. REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 40, United States Code, is amended—
- (1) by redesignating subtitle V as subtitle VI; and
 - (2) by inserting after subtitle IV the following:

“Subtitle V—Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development

“Chapter	Sec.
“151. GENERAL PROVISIONS	15101
“153. REGIONAL COMMISSIONS	15301
“155. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	15501
“157. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS	15701
“CHAPTER 151—GENERAL PROVISIONS	

- “Sec.
“15101. Definitions.

“§ 15101. Definitions.
“In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

“(1) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means a Commission established under section 15301.

“(2) LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.—The term ‘local development district’ means an entity that—

“(A)(i) is an economic development district that is—

“(I) in existence on the date of enactment of this chapter; and

“(II) located in the region; or

“(i) if an entity described in clause (i) does not exist—

“(I) is organized and operated in a manner that ensures broad-based community participation and an effective opportunity for local officials, community leaders, and the public to contribute to the development and implementation of programs in the region;

“(II) is governed by a policy board with at least a simple majority of members consisting of—

“(aa) elected officials; or

“(bb) designees or employees of a general purpose unit of local government that have

been appointed to represent the unit of local government; and

“(III) is certified by the Governor or appropriate State officer as having a charter or authority that includes the economic development of counties, portions of counties, or other political subdivisions within the region; and

“(B) has not, as certified by the Federal Cochairperson—

“(i) inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source; or

“(ii) appointed an officer who, during the period in which another entity inappropriately used Federal grant funds from any Federal source, was an officer of the other entity.

“(3) FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM.—The term ‘Federal grant program’ means a Federal grant program to provide assistance in carrying out economic and community development activities.

“(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

“(5) NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term ‘nonprofit entity’ means any entity with tax-exempt or nonprofit status, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, that has been formed for the purpose of economic development.

“(6) REGION.—The term ‘region’ means the area covered by a Commission as described in subchapter II of chapter 157.

“CHAPTER 153—REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

“Sec.

“15301. Establishment, membership, and employees.

“15302. Decisions.

“15303. Functions.

“15304. Administrative powers and expenses.

“15305. Meetings.

“15306. Personal financial interests.

“15307. Tribal representation on Northern Great Plains Regional Commission.

“15308. Tribal participation.

“15309. Annual report.

“§ 15301. Establishment, membership, and employees

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established the following regional Commissions:

“(1) The Delta Regional Commission.

“(2) The Northern Great Plains Regional Commission.

“(3) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

“(4) The Southwest Border Regional Commission.

“(5) The Northern Border Regional Commission.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) FEDERAL AND STATE MEMBERS.—Each Commission shall be composed of the following members:

“(A) A Federal Cochairperson, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(B) The Governor of each participating State in the region of the Commission.

“(2) ALTERNATE MEMBERS.—

“(A) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—The President shall appoint an alternate Federal Cochairperson for each Commission. The alternate Federal Cochairperson, when not actively serving as an alternate for the Federal Cochairperson, shall perform such functions and duties as are delegated by the Federal Cochairperson.

“(B) STATE ALTERNATES.—The State member of a participating State may have a single alternate, who shall be appointed by the Governor of the State from among the members of the Governor’s cabinet or personal staff.